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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/12/01 11:55am  
**Subject:** MicroSoft Settlement

Not that I expect my opinion to make much difference, but the only settling I see in this "agreement" is the DOJ's lawyers caving in. There is nothing to benefit the consumer, in fact it smacks of being the same deal that was "reached" several years ago in which Microsoft was to keep the manufacturers of competing software products updated on changes being made to the operating system so their products would work,, and Microsoft (almost) immediately turns around and releases new versions of its non operating system software well in advance of the release of the next version of the OS. Which is at least partly why this suit was brought.

The agreement as it reads now leaves everyone else playing catch-up and not knowing what tricks Microsoft will pull to make sure that competing products don't play well with Windows, at least without the end user jumping through several hoops. This is what Microsoft wants, they rely on the consumer to NOT buy anything else when something that works, usually poorly in comparison, is already in front of them.

Microsoft snubbed its nose at the web when it first came along, and the little it has to the game is far overshadowed by the way it is trying to control everything by ignoring existing standards, and not WORKING with others to make it a better place, but to control it.

I feel it is a waste of my tax dollars to have gone this far, only to give them the financial slap on the wrist that has been agreed to by the DOJ and some of the states. They have been found guilty and should be punished. The little man does not have the money to fight a financial monster like Microsoft, and must rely on the system to look out for his/her rights. Microsoft should, at the very least, be made to use existing standard, and, where there are no set standards, made to work with third party companies to set a standard so everyone that makes a word processor, spreadsheet, database, or whatever application/program is playing on a level field. Since Microsoft controls both the operating system and the software applications/programs it does have the inside scoop on what is needed to make them work within the new OS and force the competition to play catch up.

To take Microsoft's argument that things other than what is specifically named in the guilty verdicts that have been reached is a disservice to the populace that the original anti-trust laws were intended to address.

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